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April 28, 2005

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor  
Michigan Supreme Court  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: ADM File No. 2004-55; Proposed amendments of MCR 3.211

Dear Chief Justice Taylor:

As Prosecuting Attorney for Oscoda County I am writing to express my concern regarding these proposed amendments.


The proposed amendments to MCR 3.211(D) & (F) would require prosecutors to use SCAO's approved Uniform Support Order Form and Judgment Information Form when filing support orders. Unfortunately, all prosecution forms now must be generated by the MICES system. The MICES document generation system is inflexible and in my view, incapable of properly generating these forms. For four years the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan has struggled to adapt the MICES document generation system to the needs of courts and prosecutors. Despite numerous "work-arounds" and "fixes" to the system, the Prosecuting Attorneys and their staff still cannot confidently produce documents that do not require white out or that will uniformly meet their needs. Dan Wright is very aware of these limitations on the system, and can provide you more detail regarding the problem.

A major re-write of the MICES document generation system is planned for the end of 2005 or early 2006. I ask that you postpone consideration of these proposed amendments until the new document generation system has been installed and been proven to operate efficiently.

I am also concerned that the new forms were created unilaterally by SCAO rather than in cooperation with the Child Support Program Partners. There is, in fact, a Joint Forms Committee made up of representatives from all of the partners which is well suited to such a joint effort. Furthermore, though I am unable to speak for them, it is quite likely that members of the private bar might like an opportunity to participate in creating these forms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Barry L. Shantz  
Oscoda County Prosecuting Attorney

BLS/nra

